

House Resolution No.

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State religious institutions which have played a significant role in the local communities and neighborhoods in which they are located; and

Whereas, Elsberry United Methodist Church has enjoyed an exceptional record of accomplishments which has stretched across one hundred twenty-five years; and

Whereas, the first church to be constructed in the town of Elsberry, Missouri, Elsberry United Methodist Church had its beginning in 1879 when it was an important frontier component of a Protestant denomination known as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and

Whereas, with roots which extend even farther back to 1784 and the establishment of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, became known simply as the Methodist Church in 1939 and merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to form today's United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, Elsberry United Methodist Church likewise has an esteemed history which began when the Missouri Conference met early in September 1879 in the town of Louisiana and appointed Brother John F. O'Brien to be pastor of the Clarksville Circuit; and

Whereas, the original congregation met in a series of locations once a month for worship until a red brick church building was constructed and dedicated in 1881 on the site of the current church; and

Whereas, continued growth in membership and financial strength twice led to the creation of a larger church building and also to the establishment of Sunday School, Junior and Senior Epworth Leagues, and a Women's Society of Christian Service and a Wesleyan Service Guild which eventually merged to form the current United Methodist Women; and

Whereas, Elsberry United Methodist Church also sponsors a Youth Choir as part of a well-rounded program of spiritual education and service; and

Whereas, on November 14, 2004, Elsberry United Methodist Church celebrated its One Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary with "An Afternoon of Music and Fellowship" and the hanging of an oil painting of the church by local artist Charles Clark:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the long, stellar history of Elsberry United Methodist Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt congratulations as they celebrate the One Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary of their religious institution's establishment; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Elsberry United Methodist Church.

Offered by _____
Representative Terry L. Witte
District No. 10

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted ____, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker